

**Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
2017 Legislative Program**

I.) State Legislative Program

A.) Priority Issues

| Issue | Position |
|---|---|
| Article V Court Funding | Support eliminating the requirement that counties increase certain court expenditures by 1.5 percent over the prior county fiscal year. |
| Beach Nourishment | Support the continuation and increase of funding for beach nourishment projects. |
| Building Permits | Support legislation allowing homeowners acting as their own contractors to pull online permits for additional projects instead of having to appear in person. |
| Defense Contractor Incentives | Support legislation that makes incentives for defense contractors an outright reward. Currently state dollars may offset federal incentives. |
| Energy Policy | Support the development of a statewide energy policy. |
| Entertainment Tax Credit Incentives | Support funding for entertainment tax credit incentives. On- location and indigenous commercial, film, and media production generates over \$25 million per year in Pinellas County. |
| Healthcare Expansion | Support efforts to expand healthcare in Florida and draw down federal resources to expand Medicaid eligibility. |
| High Impact Veteran County | Support legislation establishing a “High Impact Veteran County” designation that allocates state funds to hire Veterans Service Officers in designated counties to increase services and federal benefits for Florida veterans. |
| High Prescriber Database | Support legislation that requires physicians to input data into the state monitoring database rather than leaving it as a voluntary program. |
| Homelessness Funding | Support a steady source of state funding for homelessness issues that is not subject to the annual appropriations process. |
| Low Income Pool | Support continued partnership with the federal government to provide funding for healthcare through the Low Income Pool program. |
| Medicaid Dental Care | Support legislation to incentivize participation by the dental community. |
| Medicaid Managed Care | Support continued efforts to work through Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure timely and full payment cycles for providers. |
| Vacation Rentals | Support removing the pre-emption of local regulation of vacation rental properties |
| Open Carry | Oppose any efforts for open carry of firearms |
| SHIP/SAIL (Affordable Housing Trust Fund) | Oppose money from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund being used for any purpose other than housing. |

B.) Appropriations

\$6 million in state funding for the construction, fixtures, furniture and equipment for a small business incubator on land provided by the City of St. Petersburg. The County match of up to \$4 million could be allocated from the proceeds of the sale of the STAR Center. In addition, the County will be pursuing a federal Economic Development Agency grant. The project will lead to the creation of new high-wage primary employers in the Tampa Bay area.

C.) Monitoring Issues

| Issue |
|--|
| Support the Florida Association of Counties' (FAC) Agenda when not in conflict with our own. |
| Support the priorities of partner agencies when aligned with County priorities. |
| Support funding for Pinellas County transportation projects. |
| Support the indexing of the local option fuel tax. |
| Support legislation to revise the deadline for city and county tax increment financing (TIF) payments to community redevelopment areas (CRA) from January 1 st to 30 days after the certification of the tax rolls. |
| Support legislation that would reduce the nutrient load in Florida's springsheds. Oppose any springs protection legislation that would require local governments to pay up front for improvements and protection. |
| Support funding for Regional Planning Councils, Pinellas County Department of Health, Small Business Development Center Network. |
| Monitor any changes to gaming legislation, including provisions to allow slot machines at pari-mutuels. |
| Monitor any changes to mental health services and support increased funding for these services. |
| Monitor any changes to the Florida Retirement System. |
| Monitor any changes to Agency for Health Care Administration, Brownfield Incentive Programs, Department of Health. |
| Oppose changes to sovereign immunity that would increase the cap on damages paid by local governments. |
| Monitor any changes to vacation rental regulation. |
| Home Rule Issues |
| - Oppose pre-emptions of fertilizer ordinance, high prescriber moratorium, fireworks restrictions, vehicle for hire regulation, authority to levy a local business tax |
| - Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate the local air quality control contract |
| - Oppose any unfunded mandates that impact local government budgets and control |

Potential New Issues:

- **Increased Mosquito Control Funding** – Support increased mosquito control funding available to all mosquito control districts.
- **Flood Insurance Reform** – Support efforts to support flood mitigation and encourage the private marketplace.
- **Tourist Development Taxes** – Monitor any changes to the allowable uses of TDT funds.
- **Regional Transportation**- Monitor any changes to transportation funding and support regional transportation improvement projects.
- **Local Tax Referenda** – Oppose efforts to raise the approval threshold or restrict local control over the scheduling of local tax referenda.
- **Medical Examiner Fees**- Oppose the preemption of the ability for medical examiners to charge reasonable fees for service.

Potential New Appropriations:

- **Lake Seminole Dredging**- Request appropriation of \$17 million to match the local and water district contributions to improve the water quality of Lake Seminole and Boca Ciega Bay. This multi-year project will remove several tons of harmful nutrients from Lake Seminole and return the lake to a condition where it can support recreational and commercial uses.
- **Anclote River Dredging** – Request appropriation to support Tarpon Springs' funding request for the dredging project and spoil site.
- **Bayway Bridge Replacement** – Request appropriation for accelerated funding for the Bayway Bridge replacement.
- **Lealman CRA**- Request appropriations for projects and programs that align with the Lealman Redevelopment Plan.

II.) Federal Legislative Program

A.) Priority Issues

| Subject | Position |
|---|---|
| Beach Nourishment/Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) Implementation | <p>Support approval of funding for the construction of erosion control structures (such as permanent rock structures) that reduce nourishment frequency requirements on highly erosive beaches.</p> <p>Support funding for the reauthorization of the Treasure Island Beach Nourishment Project</p> <p>Monitor the implementation of WRRDA to ensure continuous authorization for Pinellas County beach nourishment projects.</p> |
| FY2017 Appropriations | Support appropriations for Community Development Block Grants, HOME, Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grants, Community Services Block Grants, Corps of Engineers beach funding, COPS and Byrne JAG funding, Emergency Management Performance Grant funding, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding. |
| Internet Sales Tax- Marketplace Fairness Act | Support the Marketplace Fairness Act which would authorize the states to compel remote sellers to collect sales tax at the time of a transaction. |
| Low Income Pool | Support continued partnership with the state government to provide funding for healthcare through the Low Income Pool program. |
| National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) | <p>Support legislative action, policies and programs to ensure that all property owners can receive affordable flood insurance.</p> <p>Support reauthorization of the NFIP that includes provisions to allow all property owners, including businesses and second homes, access to affordable flood insurance.</p> |
| Waters of the United States (WOTUS) | <p>Support collaboration between the EPA, Army Corps and local governments to ensure clarity on the rule and ensure clean water</p> <p>Monitor ongoing litigation regarding WOTUS</p> |
| Offshore Drilling | Oppose efforts to increase offshore drilling. |

Potential New Issues:

- **Zika research and funding** - Support sustained funding for research, public health education efforts and state and local mosquito control districts to combat Zika.
- **Anclote River dredging project**- Support the Army Corps of Engineers participation in the Anclote River Federally Authorized Dredge project.
- **Regional Transportation**- Monitor the finalization and potential implementation of the proposed “Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform” rule and its impacts on transportation funding.